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TO : The Files, []

DATE: 13 May 1955

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FROM : []

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SUBJECT: [] Redesign

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1. A meeting was held in the office of the Chief, Engineering Division, OC, for the purpose of determining the degree of redesign required in connection with the production of equipment in the [] program. Those present were as follows:

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2. It was determined by the group that some degree of redesign of the system was essential prior to production, and that [] of [] would be requested to attend a conference here in the near future for discussion of technical feasibility, time, and cost of specific redesign problems.

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3. It was determined that coordination of redesign with the Air Force was desirable due to the great reduction in cost per unit that would be anticipated in quantity procurement. However, the Air Force requirements may make it undesirable due to the difference in requirements for the system. At the moment the only firm requirement that has been stated by the Air Force is that the size of the field unit be reduced. This, of course, would be compatible with the Agency requirements, if it could be done without reducing the speed or message capacity of the unit. With the state of the art at present this seems highly unlikely, however.

4. The Strategic Air Command has requested that additional tests be conducted as soon as possible to determine the operational suitability of this system from the Arctic and on North South paths. It was determined that the Engineering department does not require additional tests in connection with the evaluation of this equipment. In addition to this there is a security problem []

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[] A committee has been designated to investigate the security aspects of these tests and a decision will be requested from the committee at the earliest date possible.

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5. A detailed discussion of the field unit redesign followed and the following points were discussed:

A. Continuous tuning vs crystal control; due to the necessity for increasing the size of the unit in order to accommodate the variable tuning, and considering the operational techniques to be utilized with this equipment, it was determined that variable tuning was not feasible.

B. It was determined that some form of coder redesign was required and that an alphabet dial would be a good compromise between complexity and size vs convenience of message preparation.

C. It was determined that the Engineering Division felt that the present battery system is satisfactory; however, it would be desirable to have the battery pack easily detachable from the unit.

D. It was determined that the Agency does not want a beacon facility in connection with the field unit.

E. It was determined that the ability to utilize [] frequencies within the same band was a desirable feature, but that the accomplishment of this would be extremely difficult and probably not justified in the present system. In addition it was determined that an investigation should be made as to the feasibility of increasing the frequency coverage to 3-30 mc.

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F. It was determined that investigation of the feasibility of increasing the message capacity [] was desirable.

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G. It was determined that provisions for the use of other types of antennas was desirable for use of this equipment in agent operations.

H. It was determined that the carrying case should resemble a brief case in some instances instead of the olive drab case presently in use.

I. It was determined that the feasibility of reduction of bandwidth to approximately 8 kc should be investigated.

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6. In connection with the base station it was determined that redesign was necessary to facilitate ease of maintenance, and that a channel message indicator is necessary.

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8. It was determined that the replacement of the magnetic recording and visual translation with a direct recording device such as the stylus recorder was desirable.

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